

## **SWVG Guidelines for Working with Children**

Details

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## **SWVG Guidelines for Working with Children**

Introduction.

These guidelines have been produced following questions raised by several visitors about how they should work with the children of their clients.

Our work with families has increased considerably over the last few years. SWVG visitors all have DBS checks to advanced level that enable us to work with vulnerable adults, but not specifically with children. We have checked what level of registration we require, and as we do not work with any asylum seekers who are under 18 we do not need to know if the visitor is barred from working with children.

1. Occasionally visitors have been asked to take responsibility for a clients child for a few hours - eg on a coach outing. This is not something any visitor should agree to to, but instead, help the client to find a friend of theirs to accompany the child.
2. Once or twice, when accompanying a client to hospital, a visitor has been asked in an emergency to look after their children for a short time while the client sees the clinician. As long as the visitor and child are in a public place this is acceptable. As it also would be if a visitor were asked to look after a child while the parent was interviewed by immigration or in a court for a short time.
3. It is absolutely fine for visitors to be with and to play with children in any public place. However, visitors must avoid being alone with a child - eg in a car.
4. In summary, visitors must not take full responsibility for looking after a child; that responsibility remains with the parent.

ADS 08.09.15.

**Southampton and Winchester Visitors Group** *Working with asylum seekers and refugees*  
**Patrons:** Miriam Margolyes OBE, John Pilkington, Dr Shirley Firth **Registered charity:** 1103093

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